

BookletChartTM

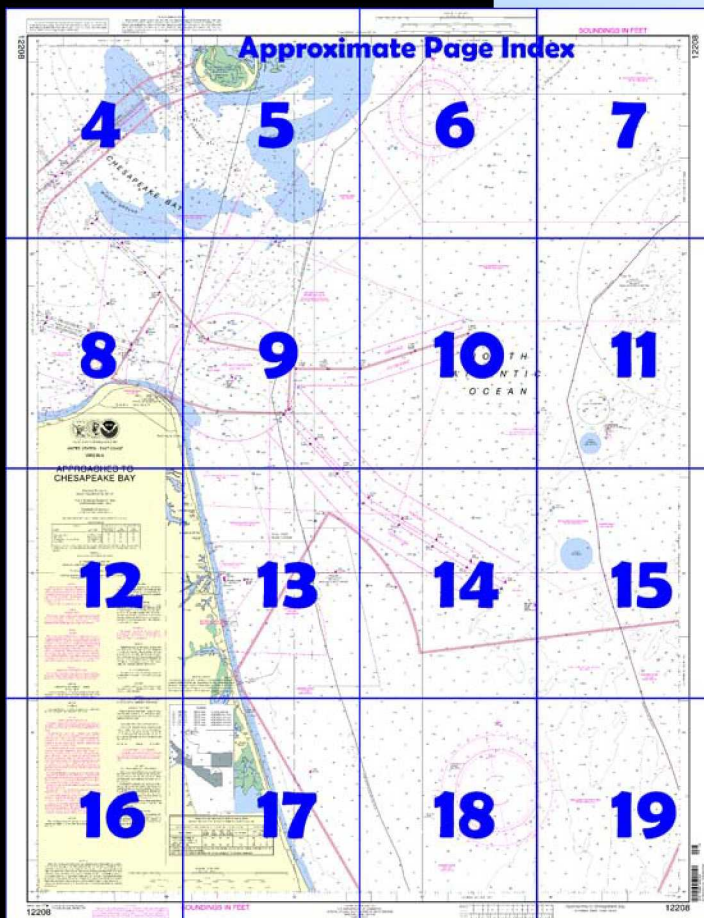
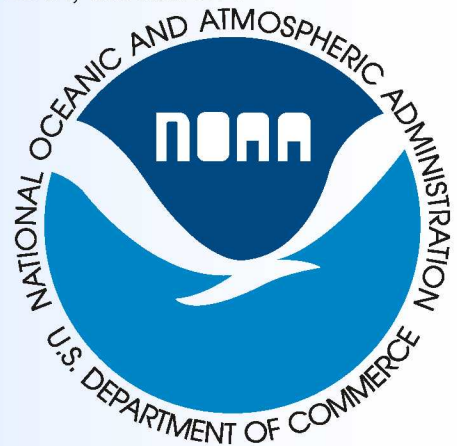
Approaches to Chesapeake Bay

(NOAA Chart 12208)



A reduced scale NOAA nautical chart for small boaters. When possible, use the full size NOAA chart for navigation.

- ☒ Complete, reduced scale nautical chart
- ☒ Print at home for free
- ☒ Convenient size
- ☒ Up to date with all Notices to Mariners
- ☒ United States Coast Pilot excerpts
- ☒ Compiled by NOAA, the nation's chartmaker.



Home Edition (not for sale)



What are Nautical Charts?

Nautical charts are a fundamental tool of marine navigation. They show water depths, obstructions, buoys, other aids to navigation, and much more. The information is shown in a way that promotes safe and efficient navigation. Chart carriage is mandatory on the commercial ships that carry America's commerce. They are also used on every Navy and Coast Guard ship, fishing and passenger vessels, and are widely carried by recreational boaters.

What is a BookletChart™?

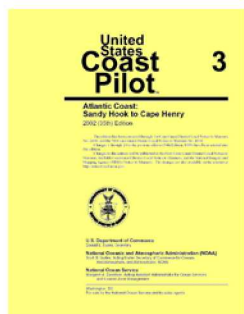
This BookletChart is made to help recreational boaters locate themselves on the water. It has been reduced in scale for convenience, but otherwise contains all the information of the full-scale nautical chart. The bar scales have also been reduced, and are accurate when used to measure distances in this BookletChart. See the Note at the bottom of page 5 for the reduction in scale applied to this chart.

Whenever possible, use the official, full scale NOAA nautical chart for navigation. Nautical chart sales agents are listed on the Internet at <http://www.NauticalCharts.NOAA.gov>.

This BookletChart does NOT fulfill chart carriage requirements for regulated commercial vessels under Titles 33 and 44 of the Code of Federal Regulations.

Notice to Mariners Correction Status

This BookletChart has been updated for chart corrections published in the U.S. Coast Guard Local Notice to Mariners, the National Geospatial Intelligence Agency Weekly Notice to Mariners, and, where applicable, the Canadian Coast Guard Notice to Mariners. Additional chart corrections have been made by NOAA in advance of their publication in a Notice to Mariners. The last Notices to Mariners applied to this chart are listed in the Note at the bottom of page 7. Coast Pilot excerpts are not being corrected.



[Coast Pilot 3, Chapter 9 excerpts]

(11) Endangered northern right whales may occur in approach channels to the Chesapeake Bay. They are most likely to occur in the area from November through April.

(13) **Chesapeake Light** (36°54'17"N., 75°42'46"W.), 117 feet above the water, is shown from a blue tower on a white superstructure on four piles, 14 miles eastward of Cape Henry. The name CHESAPEAKE is displayed on all sides. A fog signal and racon are at the light. A fish

haven, consisting of sunken fishing-boat hulls and marked by private unlighted buoys, is about 0.4 mile southwestward of the light.

(18) **Nautilus Shoal**, which extends 4 miles southeastward from Fishermans Island, has patches with depths of 6 to 11 feet. The buoyed channel along the southwest side of Nautilus Shoal, thence northward between Fishermans Island and **Inner Middle Ground**, had a controlling

depth of about 16 feet in 1977-1980. The channel is used by local vessels drawing up to 12 feet. This channel is not recommended for strangers because of shifting shoals. In 1996, a 10-foot shoal was reported 1.5 miles S of Fishermans Island in about 37°03'31.2"N., 075°57'27.0"W. (19) Breakers frequently occur along the axis of Inner Middle Ground, starting on the seaward side of the Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel and continuing the entire length of the shoal. This phenomenon appears to be associated with large swells rolling in from sea from the south-southeast to southeast.

(21) **Cape Henry Light** (36°55'35"N., 76°00'26"W.), 164 feet above the water, is shown from an octagonal, pyramidal tower, upper and lower half of each face alternately black and white, on the beach near the turn of the cape.

(22) The gray octagonal, pyramidal tower 110 yards southwest of Cape Henry Light is the abandoned 1791 lighthouse.

Local magnetic disturbance

(23) Differences of as much as 6° from the normal variation have been observed 3 to 17 miles offshore from Cape Henry to Currituck Beach Light.

(24) A **naval restricted area** extends northward and eastward from Cape Henry.

(25) The summer resort of **Virginia Beach** is about 5 miles southward of Cape Henry Light. Many high-rise buildings, two water tanks, and an aerobeacon 2.8 miles inland are prominent. A hotel cupola, 3.4 miles south of Cape Henry Light, is distinctive.

(26) The **Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel** extends from Cape Charles across the bay entrance to a point 6 miles westward of Cape Henry. The 15-mile crossing has vehicular tunnels under Chesapeake Channel and Thimble Shoal Channel with fixed bridges over Fishermans Inlet and secondary channels. In addition to the channel buoys and lights, daybeacons and fog signals mark the openings at Chesapeake and Thimble Shoal Channels. At night the floodlighted tunnel houses are more prominent than the privately maintained lights marking the channels. In July 1996, a two-lane low level and high level fixed span bridge was under construction about 267 yards westward of the existing fixed highway bridge across Chesapeake Bay; upon completion, the clearances will be the same as the existing bridge.

(28) Normal precautions dictated by prudent seamanship are expected of all vessels. Mariners transiting this area are, however, urged to be particularly alert in regards to the weather. To assist in this respect, the National Weather Service provides 24-hour weather broadcasting on 162.55 MHz. The local Marine Operator also transmits weather information at 0000, 0600, 1200, and 1800 local time on 2450 kHz and 2538 kHz. Information of a pending weather frontal passage should be met with advance preparations. Engines readied for short notice maneuvering and anchor details alerted are considered minimum prudent precautions. Maneuvering in close proximity of the bridge-tunnel complex is also discouraged.

(29) A **Regulated Navigation Area** has been established in the waters of the Atlantic Ocean and in Chesapeake Bay.

(31) **Traffic Separation Schemes (Chesapeake Bay Entrance and Smith Point)** have been established for the control of maritime traffic at the entrance of Chesapeake Bay and off Smith Point Light (37°52'47"N., 76°11'01"W.). They have been designed to aid in the prevention of collisions, but are not intended in any way to supersede or alter the applicable Navigation Rules.

(32) The scheme provides for inbound-outbound traffic lanes to enter or depart Chesapeake Bay from the northeastward and from the southeastward.

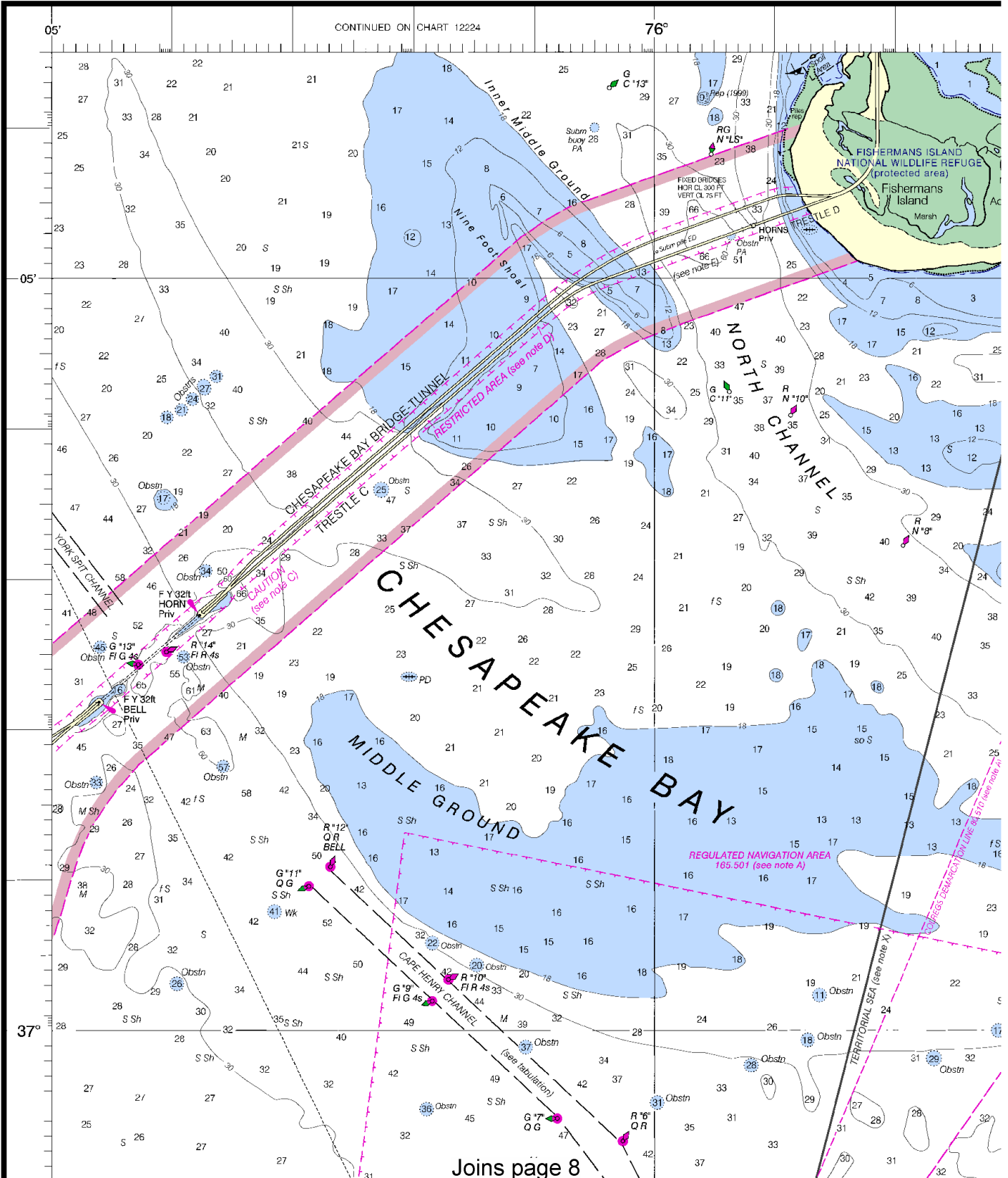
(33) A precautionary area with a radius of 2 miles is centered on Chesapeake Bay Entrance Junction Lighted Whistle Buoy C (36°56'08"N., 75°57'27"W.).

(34) The northeasterly inbound-outbound traffic lanes are separated by a line of four fairway buoys on bearing 250°-070°. The outermost buoy in the line is 6.4 miles 313° from Chesapeake Light and the innermost buoy is 4.5 miles 074° from Cape Henry Light.

This nautical chart has been designed to promote safe navigation. The National Ocean Service encourages users to submit corrections, additions, or comments for improving this chart to the Chief, Marine Chart Division (N/CS2), National Ocean Service, NOAA, Silver Spring, Maryland 20910-3282.

PRINT-ON-DEMAND CHARTS
NOAA and its partner, OceanGrafix, offer this chart updated weekly by NOAA for Notices to Mariners and critical corrections. Charts are printed when ordered using Print-on-Demand technology. New Editions are available 5-6 weeks before their release as traditional NOAA charts. Ask your chart agent about Print-on-Demand charts or contact NOAA at 1-800-584-4683, <http://NauticalCharts.gov>, help@NauticalCharts.gov, or help@OceanGrafix.com.

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Joins page 8

Printed at reduced scale.

SCALE 1:50,000

See Note on page 5.

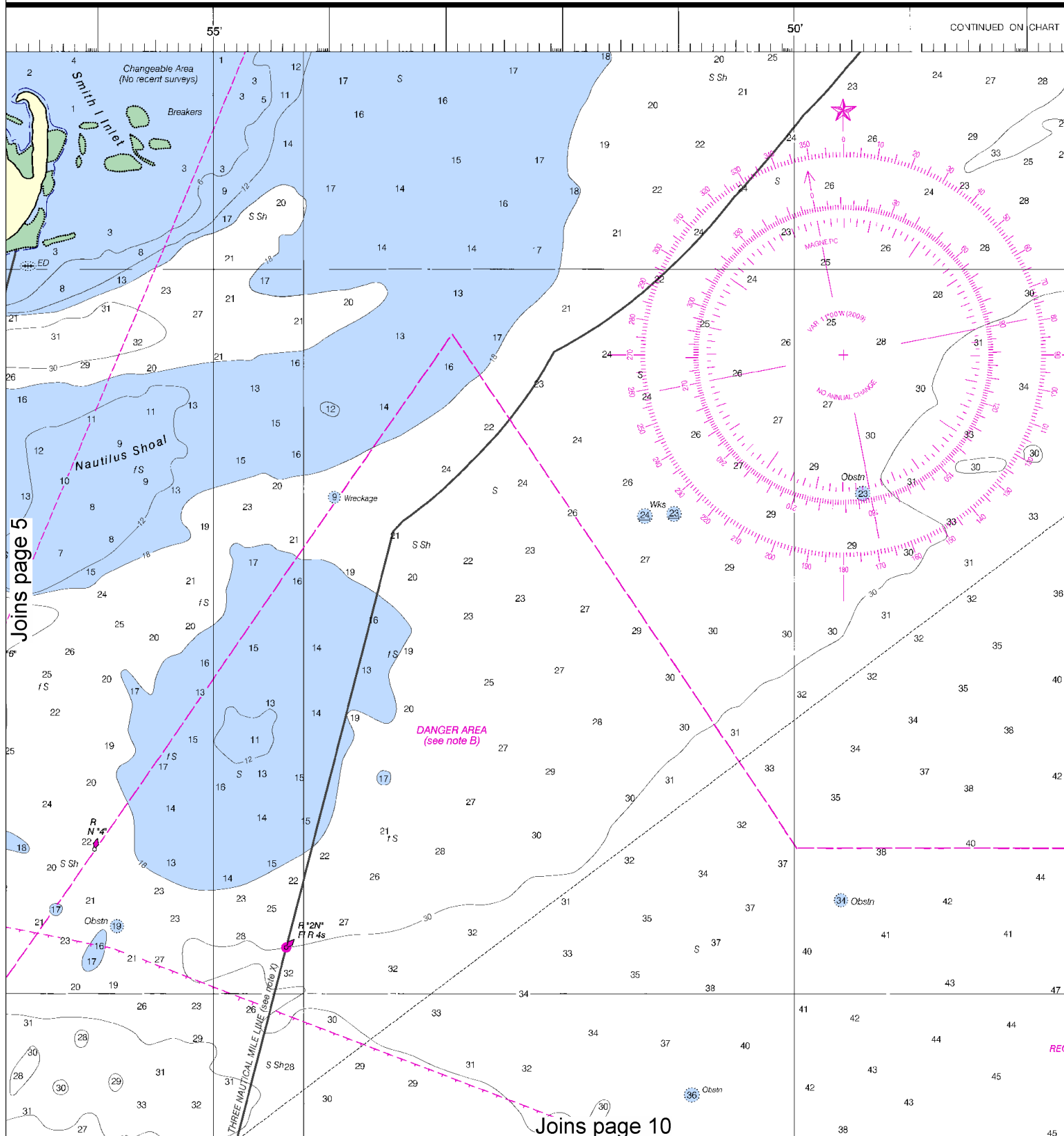


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Formerly C&GS 3335, 1st Ed., May 1946 KAPP 549

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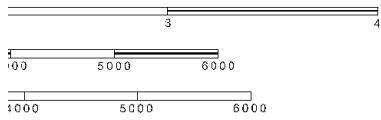
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~~SCALE 1:50,000~~
Nautical Miles

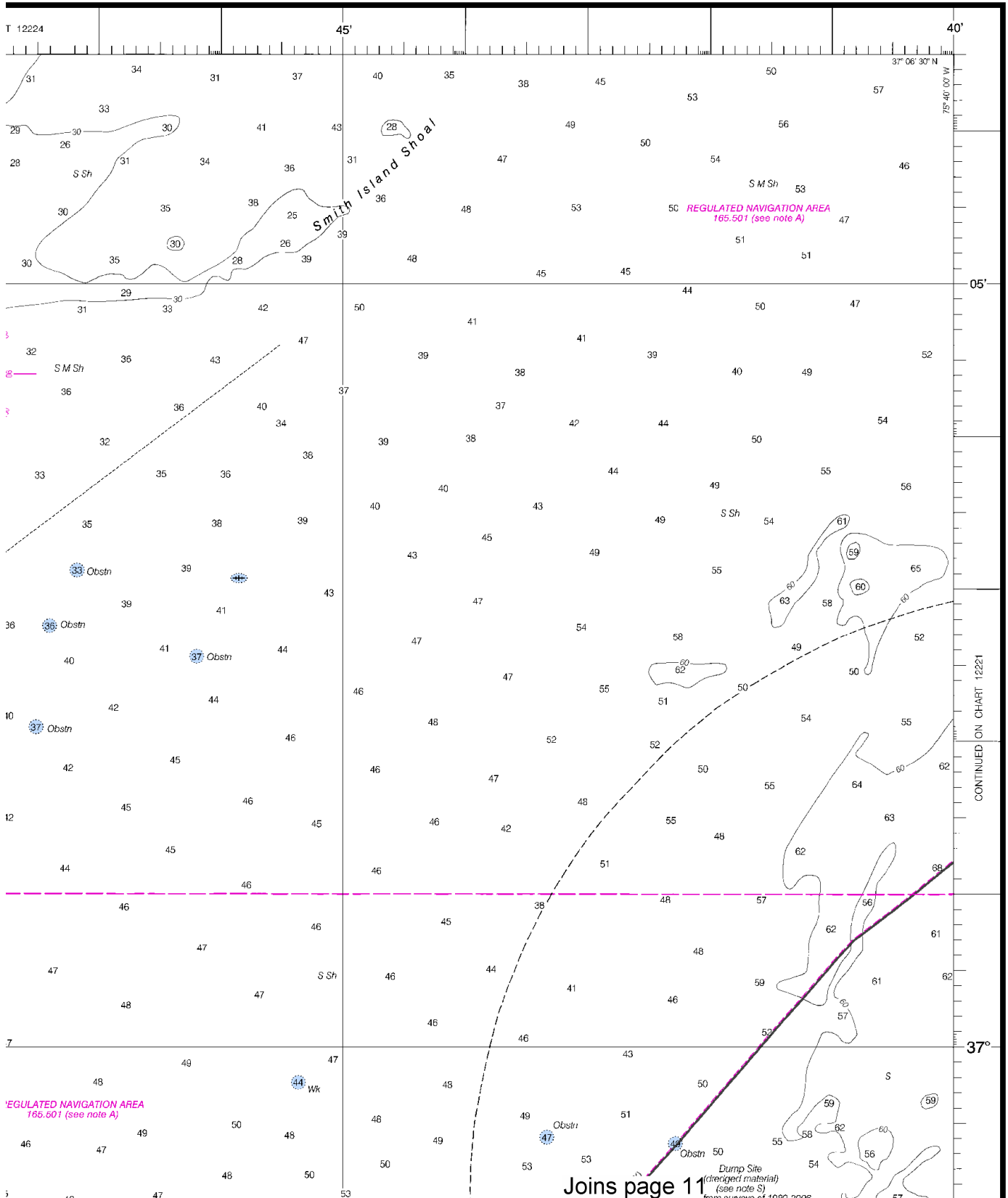
See Note on page 5.

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SOUNDINGS IN FEET



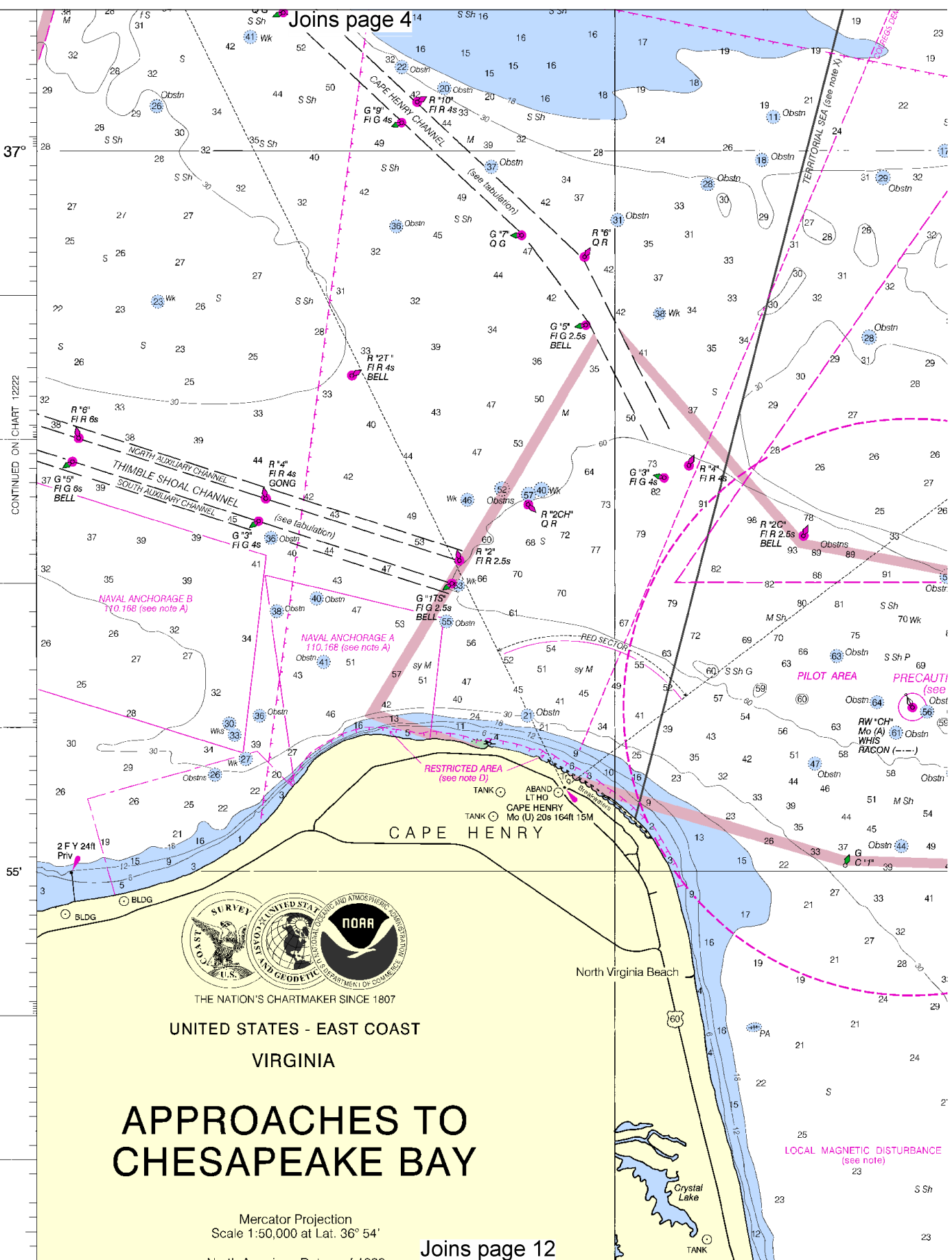
12208

CONTINUED ON CHART 12221

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This BookletChart has been updated with: Coast Guard Local Notice To Mariners: 0810 2/23/2010,
 NGA Weekly Notice to Mariners: 1010 3/6/2010,
 Canadian Coast Guard Notice to Mariners: n/a .





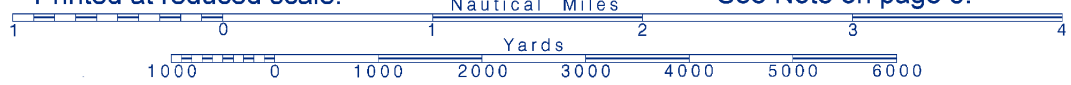
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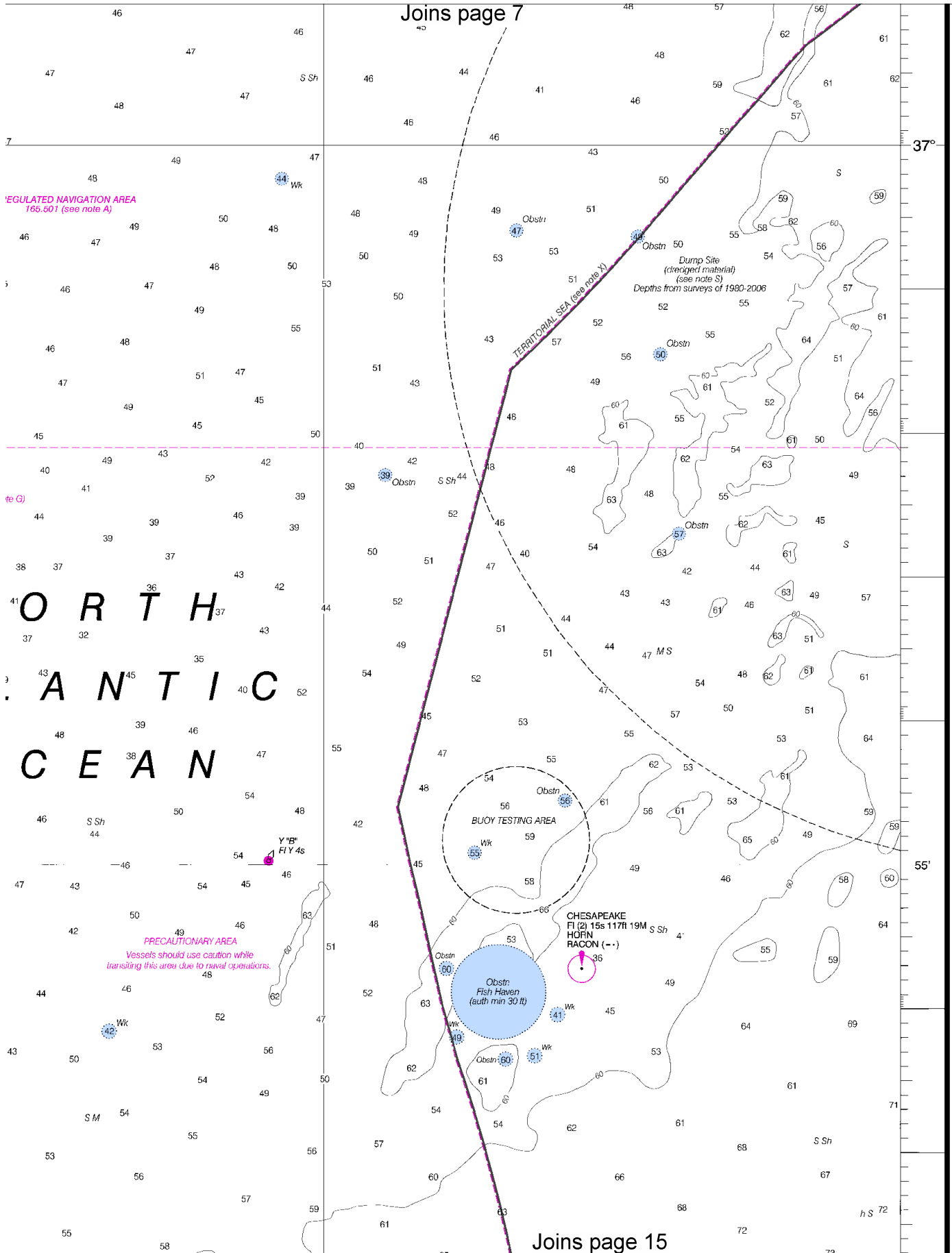
See Note on page 5.



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~~SCALE 1:50,000~~
Nautical Miles

The diagram consists of two horizontal number lines. The top number line is labeled "Rational Numbers" and has tick marks at 1, 0, 1, 2, 3, and 4. The bottom number line is labeled "Yards" and has tick marks at 1000, 0, 1000, 2000, 3000, 4000, 5000, and 6000.



UNITED STATES - EAST COAST

VIRGINIA

APPROACHES TO CHESAPEAKE BAY

Mercator Projection
Scale 1:50,000 at Lat. 36° 54'

North American Datum of 1983
(World Geodetic System 1984)

SOUNDINGS IN FEET
AT MEAN LOWER LOW WATER

Additional information can be obtained at nauticalcharts.noaa.gov.

TIDAL INFORMATION

NAME	PLACE (LAT/LONG)	Height referred to datum of soundings (MLLW)		
		Mean Higher High Water	Mean High Water	Mean Low Water
Fishermans Island	(37°08'N/75°58'W)	feet 3.4	feet 3.2	feet 0.1
Cape Henry	(36°56'N/76°00'W)	3.5	3.2	0.1
Lymhaven Inlet, Virginia Pilots Dock	(36°54'N/76°05'W)	2.6	2.4	0.1
Virginia Beach	(36°51'N/75°58'W)	3.9	3.6	0.2

Dashes (---) located in datum columns indicate unavailable datum values for a tide station. Real-time water levels, tide predictions, and tidal current predictions are available on the Internet from <http://tidesandcurrents.noaa.gov>.
(Jul 2009)

HEIGHTS

Heights in feet above Mean High Water.

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

Consult U.S. Coast Pilots 3 and 4 for important supplemental information.

For Symbols and Abbreviations see Chart No. 1

COLREGS: International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea, 1972.
Demarcation lines are shown thus: ---

NOTE A

Navigation regulations are published in Chapter 2, U.S. Coast Pilots 3 and 4. Additions or revisions to Chapter 2 are published in the Notice to Mariners. Information concerning the regulations may be obtained at the Office of the Commander, 5th Coast Guard District in Portsmouth, Virginia or at the Office of the District Engineer, Corps of Engineers in Norfolk, Virginia.

Refer to charted regulation section numbers.

NOTE B

DANGER AREA

Area is open to unrestricted surface navigation but all vessels are cautioned neither to anchor, dredge, trawl, lay cables, bottom, nor conduct any other similar type of operation because of residual danger from mines on the bottom.

NOTE C

CAUTION

The Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel Complex has on several occasions suffered damage from vessels due to adverse weather conditions. Currents in excess of three knots can be expected in the area. Mariners transiting this area are urged to be particularly alert in regards to the weather situation. The National Weather Service provides 24 hour weather broadcasting on 162.55 MHz. The Local Marine Operator also transmits weather information at 0100, 0700, 1300 and 1900 local time on 2538 and 2450 kHz. Transmitting schedules are subject to change, see Notice to Mariners. Maneuvering in close proximity of the bridge-tunnel complex is discouraged.

NOTE D

EMERGENCY RESTRICTED AREA

For the latest information regarding the regulations of any emergency restricted area, contact the Army Corps of Engineers, Norfolk District, Regulatory Branch at (757) 201-7653/7652.

NOTE E

CHESAPEAKE BAY BRIDGE - TUNNEL

(Private lights)

North Channel Bridge - A fixed green light marks the mid-channel with fixed red lights marking the channel limits. Fixed red obstruction lights mark each pier in Trestles C and D.

NOTE F

CAUTION

Numerous diffusers, rising 4 1/2 feet above existing bottom, are found along the last 2,400 feet of the sewer.

AUTHORITIES

Hydrography and topography by the National Ocean Service, Coast Survey, with additional data from the Corps of Engineers, Geological Survey, U.S. Coast Guard, and National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency.

HORIZONTAL DATUM

The horizontal reference datum of this chart is North American Datum of 1983 (NAD 83), which for charting purposes is considered equivalent to the World Geodetic System 1984 (WGS 84). Geographic positions referred to the North American Datum of 1927 must be corrected an average of 0.535" northward and 1.249" eastward to agree with this chart.

WARNING

The prudent mariner will not rely solely on any single aid to navigation, particularly on floating aids. See U.S. Coast Guard Light List and U.S. Coast Pilot for details.

NOTES

Regulations for Ocean Dumping Sites are contained in 40 CFR, Parts 220-229. Additional information concerning the regulations and requirements for use of the sites may be obtained from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). See U.S. Coast Pilots appendix for addresses of EPA offices. Dumping subsequent to the survey dates may have reduced the depths shown.

AIDS TO NAVIGATION

Consult U.S. Coast Guard Light List for supplemental information concerning aids to navigation.

CAUTION

Temporary changes or defects in aids to navigation are not indicated on this chart. See Local Notice to Mariners.

CAUTION

Improved channels shown by broken lines are subject to shoaling, particularly at the edges.

RADAR REFLECTORS

See U.S. Coast Pilot for details on many floating aids.

VIRGINIA BEACH

SOURCE DIAGRAM

The outlined areas represent the limits of the most recent hydrographic survey information that has been evaluated for charting. Surveys have been banded in this diagram by date and type of survey. Channels maintained by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers are periodically resurveyed and are not shown on this diagram. Refer to Chapter 1, United States Coast Pilot.

SOURCE

A 1990-2008 NOS Surveys full bottom coverage
B 1990-1999 NOS Surveys partial bottom coverage

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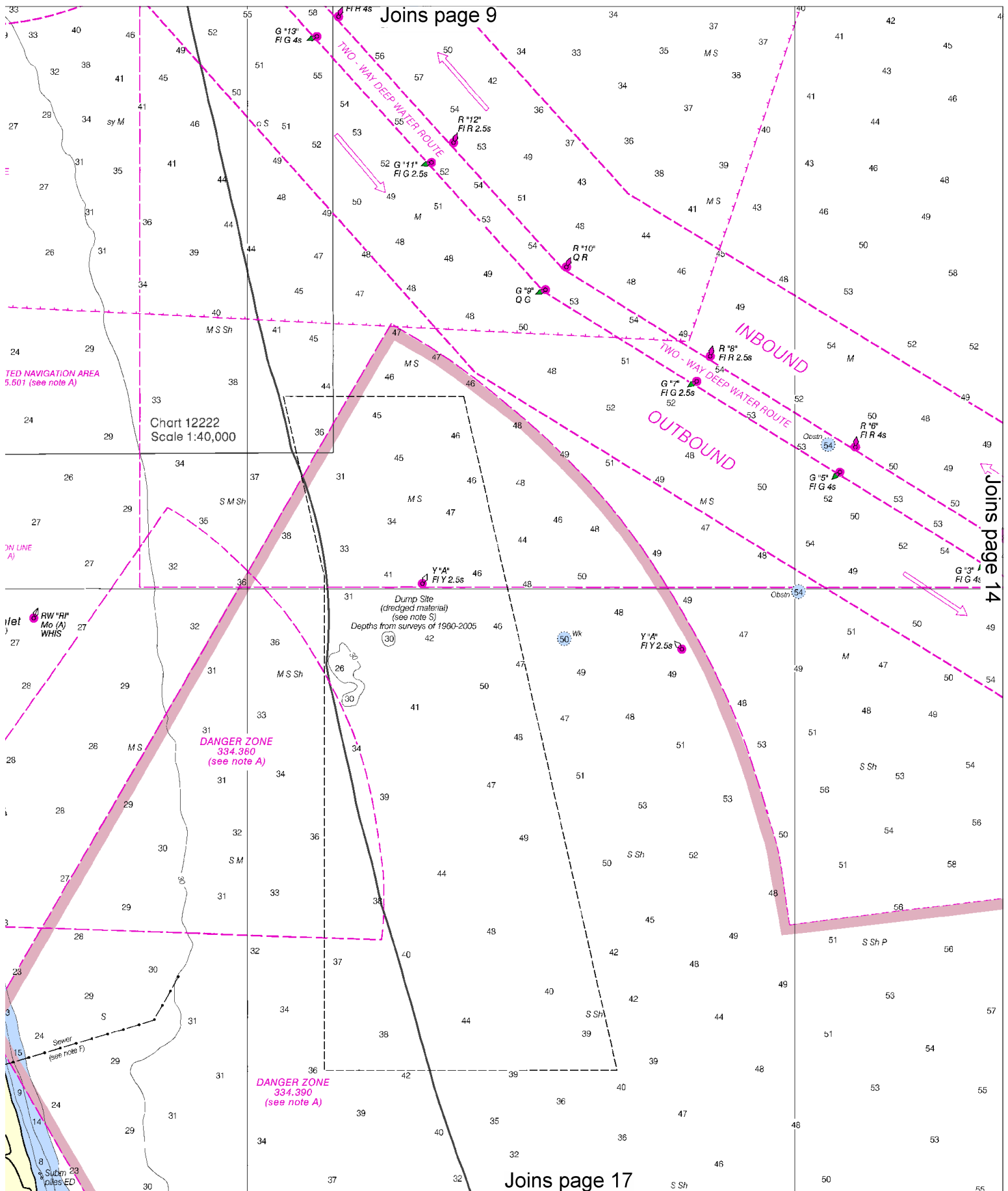


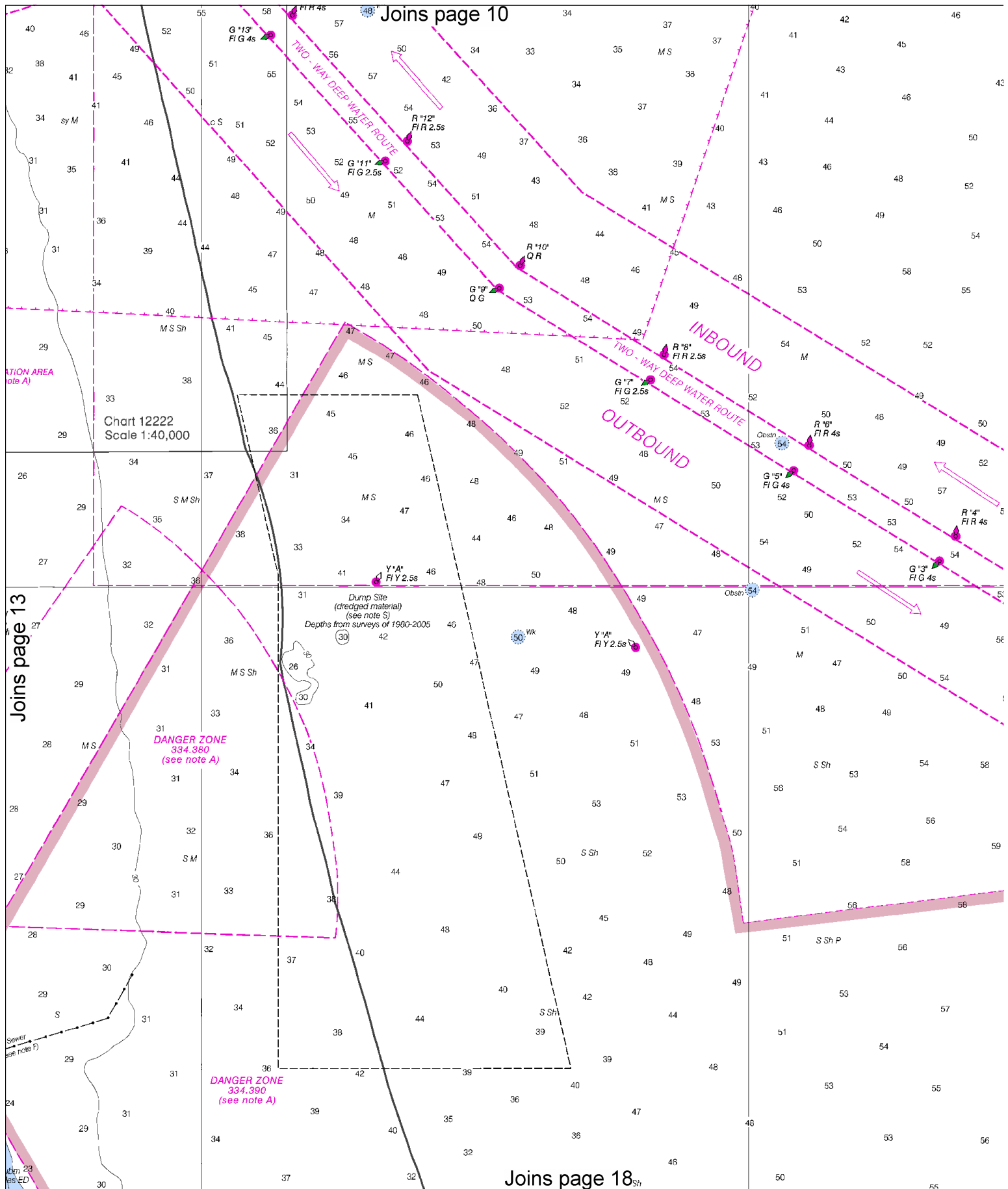
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SCALE 1:50,000
Nautical Miles

See Note on page 5.

Yards
1 000 0 1000 2000 3000 4000 5000 6000





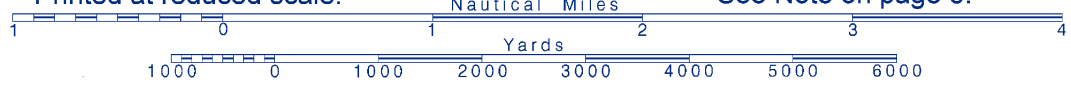
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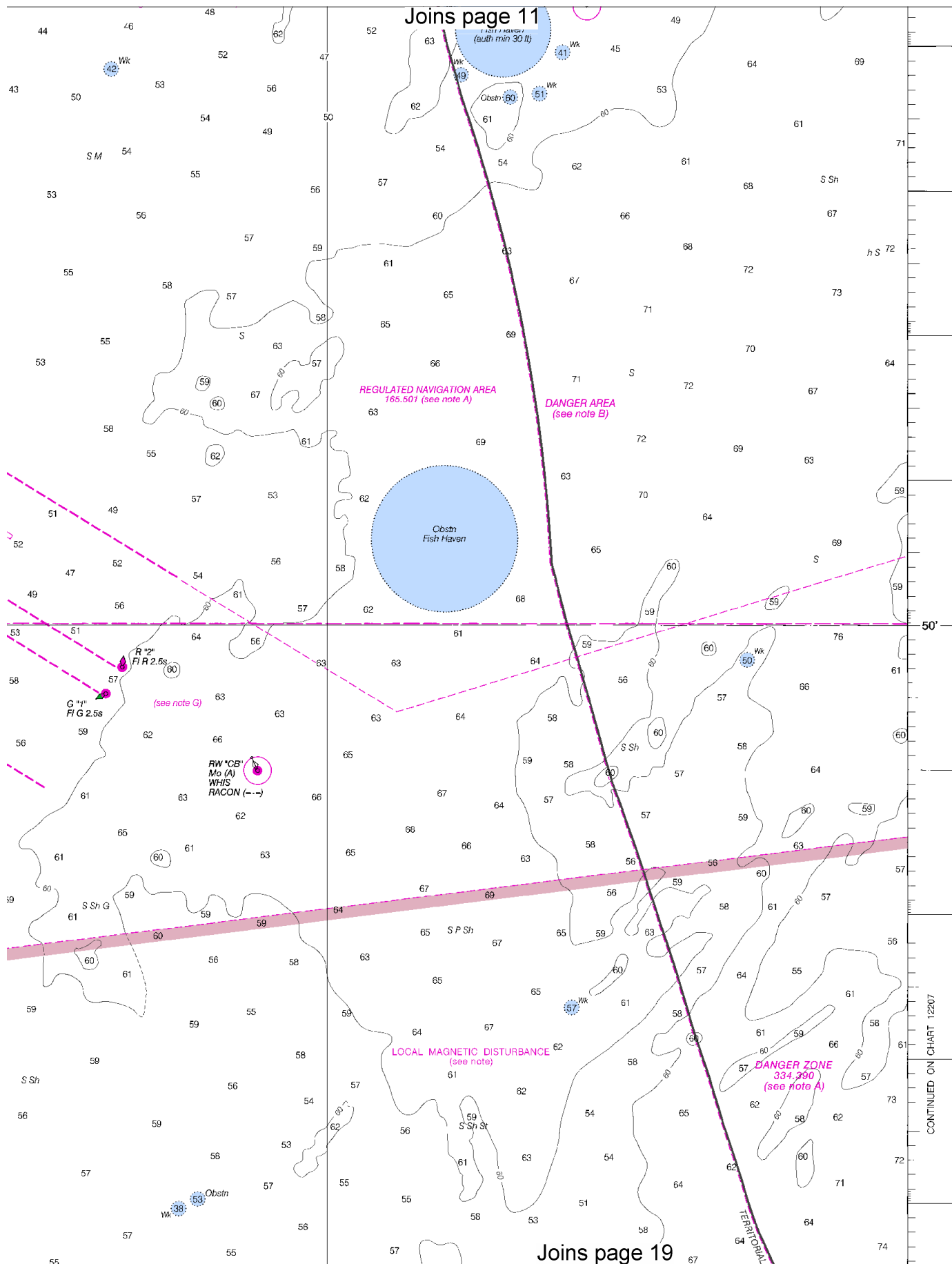
Printed at reduced scale.

SCALE 1:50,000

See Note on page 5.



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CONTINUED ON CHART 12207

Joins page 19

mits weather information at 0100, 0700, 1300 and 1900 hours. For the latest information regarding the regulations of any emergency restricted area, contact the Army Corps of Engineers, Norfolk District, Regulatory Branch at (757) 201-7653/7652.

NOTE D EMERGENCY RESTRICTED AREA

For the latest information regarding the regulations of any emergency restricted area, contact the Army Corps of Engineers, Norfolk District, Regulatory Branch at (757) 201-7653/7652.

NOTE E CHESAPEAKE BAY BRIDGE - TUNNEL (Private lights)

North Channel Bridge - A fixed green light marks the mid-channel with fixed red lights marking the channel limits. Fixed red obstruction lights mark each pier in Trestles C and D.

NOTE F CAUTION

Numerous diffusers, rising 43 feet above existing bottom, are found along the last 2,400 feet of the sewer.

NOTE G TRAFFIC SEPARATION SCHEME

The traffic separation scheme is designed to aid in the prevention of collisions at the approaches to Chesapeake Bay and does not supersede or alter the applicable Rules of the Road.

The RECOMMENDED routes for entering and departing from Chesapeake Bay are overprinted on this chart. The Northeast Approach is marked by a tinted magenta line centered on a line of fairway buoys which separates the courses of inbound and outbound vessels. Vessels should leave all buoys on their port hand.

It is RECOMMENDED that the following ships use the Southern Approach deep-water route when bound for Chesapeake Bay from sea or to sea from Chesapeake Bay: Deep-draft ships, drafts defined as 42 feet/12.8 meters or greater in fresh water, and naval aircraft carriers. Ships drawing less than 42 feet/12.8 meters may use the deep-water route when, in their master's judgment, the effects of ship characteristics, its speed, and prevailing environmental conditions may cause the draft of the ship to equal or exceed 42 feet/12.8 meters.

It is RECOMMENDED that a ship using the deep-water route: Announce its intention on VHF-FM channel 16 as it approaches Chesapeake Bay Southern Approach Lighted Whistle Buoy "CB" on the south end, or Chesapeake Bay Entrance Lighted Whistle Buoy "CH", on the north end of the route;

Avoid, as far as practicable, overtaking other ships operating in the deep-water route;

Keep as near to the outer limit of the route which lies on the starboard side as is safe and practicable.

All other ships approaching the Chesapeake Bay traffic separation scheme should use the appropriate inbound or outbound traffic lane of the traffic separation scheme.

Traffic within the precautionary area may consist of vessels operating between Thimble Shoal and Chesapeake Channels and one of the established traffic lanes. Mariners are advised to exercise extreme care in navigating within this area. The normal Pilot Boarding Area is outlined by a magenta band.

NOTE H

While dredging operations attempt to maintain Rudee Inlet channel to a depth of 10 feet, the inlet is subject to continual shoaling.

NOTE X

Within the 12-nautical mile Territorial Sea, established by Presidential Proclamation, some Federal laws apply. The Three Nautical Mile Line, previously identified as the outer limit of the territorial sea, is retained as it continues to depict the jurisdictional limit of the other laws. The 9-nautical mile Natural Resource Boundary off the Gulf coast of Florida, Texas, and Puerto Rico, and the Three Nautical Mile Line elsewhere remain in most cases the inner limit of Federal fisheries jurisdiction and the outer limit of the jurisdiction of the states. The 24-nautical mile Contiguous Zone and the 200-nautical mile Exclusive Economic Zone were established by Presidential Proclamation. Unless fixed by treaty or the U.S. Supreme Court, these maritime limits are subject to modification.

tion concerning the regulations and re-
for use of the sites may be obtained
from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).
See U.S. Coast Pilots appendix for addresses of
EPA offices. Dumping subsequent to the survey
dates may have reduced the depths shown.

AIDS TO NAVIGATION

Consult U.S. Coast Guard Light List for supplemental information concerning aids to navigation.

CAUTION

Temporary changes or defects in aids to navigation are not indicated on this chart. See Local Notice to Mariners.

CAUTION

Improved channels shown by broken lines are subject to shoaling, particularly at the edges.

RADAR REFLECTORS

Radar reflectors have been placed on many floating aids to navigation. Individual radar reflector identification on these aids has been omitted from this chart.

NOAA WEATHER RADIO BROADCASTS

The NOAA Weather Radio station listed below provides continuous weather broadcasts. The reception range is typically 20 to 40 nautical miles from the antenna site, but can be as much as 100 nautical miles for stations at high elevations.

Norfolk, VA KHB-37 162.550 MHz

LOCAL MAGNETIC DISTURBANCE

Differences of as much as 6° from the normal variation have been observed 3 to 17 nautical miles offshore from Cape Henry to Currituck Beach Light.

CAUTION

FISH TRAP AREAS AND STRUCTURES

Mariners are warned that numerous uncharted duck blinds and fishing structures, some submerged, may exist in the fish trap areas. Such structures are not charted unless known to be permanent.

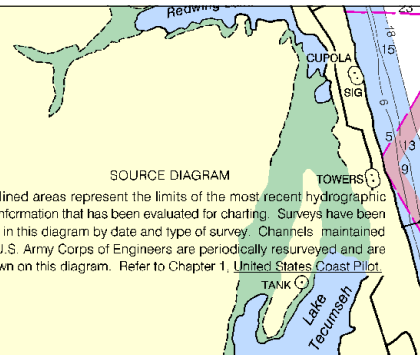
Regulations to assure clear passage to and through dredged and natural channels and to established landings are prescribed by the Corps of Engineers in the Code of Federal Regulations.

Definite limits of fish trap areas have been established in some areas and those limits are shown thus:

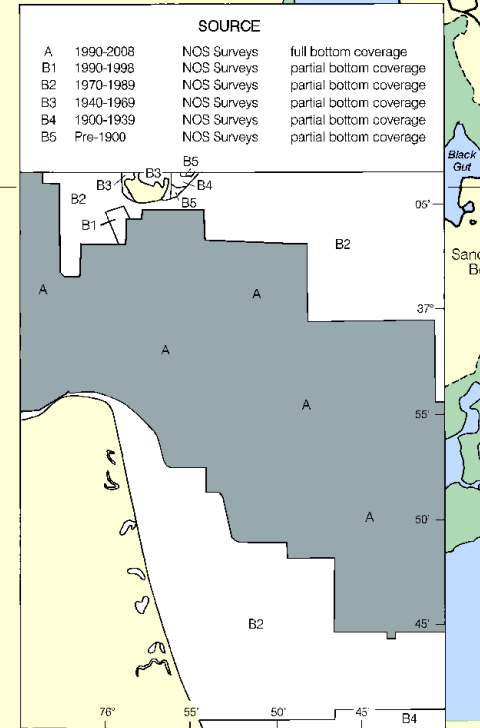
Where definite limits have not been prescribed, the location of fishing structures is restricted only by the regulations.

POLLUTION REPORTS

Report all spills of oil and hazardous substances to the National Response Center via 1-800-424-8802 (toll free), or to the nearest U.S. Coast Guard facility if telephone communication is impossible (33 CFR 153).



The outlined areas represent the limits of the most recent hydrographic survey information that has been evaluated for charting. Surveys have been banded in this diagram by date and type of survey. Channels maintained by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers are periodically resurveyed and are not shown on this diagram. Refer to Chapter 1, United States Coast Pilot.



THIMBLE SHOAL AND CHESAPEAKE BAY ENTRANCE CHANNEL TABULATED FROM SURVEYS BY THE CORPS OF ENGINEERS - SURV					
CONTROLLING DEPTHS FROM SEAWARD IN FEET AT MEAN LOWER LOW WATER (MLLW)					
NAME OF CHANNEL	LEFT OUTSIDE QUARTER	LEFT INSIDE QUARTER	RIGHT INSIDE QUARTER	RIGHT OUTSIDE QUARTER	DATE OF
THIMBLE SHOAL CHANNEL (A)	47.8	50.3	50.1	44.9	7/1
NORTH AUXILIARY CHANNEL (B)					
SOUTH AUXILIARY CHANNEL (B)					
CAPE HENRY CHANNEL	46.1	49.0	49.5	46.0	3

A. CHANNEL IS RESTRICTED TO EXCLUDE VESSELS AND TOWS DRAWING LESS THAN 25' B. PROJECT MAINTENANCE DISCONTINUED
NOTE - CONSULT THE CORPS OF ENGINEERS FOR CHANGES SUBSEQUENT TO THE ABOVE

SCALE 1:50,000

Nautical Miles

Yards

Meters

14th Ed., Aug. /09 ■ Corrected through NM Aug. 29/09
Corrected through LNM Aug. 25/09

12208

CAUTION

This chart has been corrected from the Notice to Mariners (NM) published weekly by the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency and the Local Notice to Mariners (LNM) issued periodically by each U.S. Coast Guard district to the dates shown in the lower left hand corner. Chart updates corrected from Notice to Mariners published after the dates shown in the lower left hand corner are available at nauticalcharts.noaa.gov.

SOUNDINGS IN FEET

Printed at reduced scale.

SCALE 1:50,000

Nautical Miles

See Note on page 5.

Yards

1 000 0 1000 2000 3000 4000 5000 6000

16



DANGER ZONE
334.390
(see note A)

Y'B*
FLY 4s

THREE NAUTICAL MILE LINE (see note A)

DANGER ZONE
334.390
(see note A)

Unexploded
Torpedo
Rep (1987)

Obstr PA
(pipes)

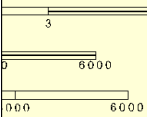
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PROJECT DIMENSIONS			
WIDTH (FEET)	LENGTH (NAUT. MILES)	DEPTH (FEET)	DEPTH (FATHOMS)
1000	13.0	55	55
450		32	32
450		32	32
1000	4.0	50	50

WATER MAINTAINED TO 50 FEET.

UTION



Published at Washington, D.C.
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION
NATIONAL OCEAN SERVICE
COAST SURVEY

FATHOMS	1	2
FEET	6	12
METERS	1	2

18



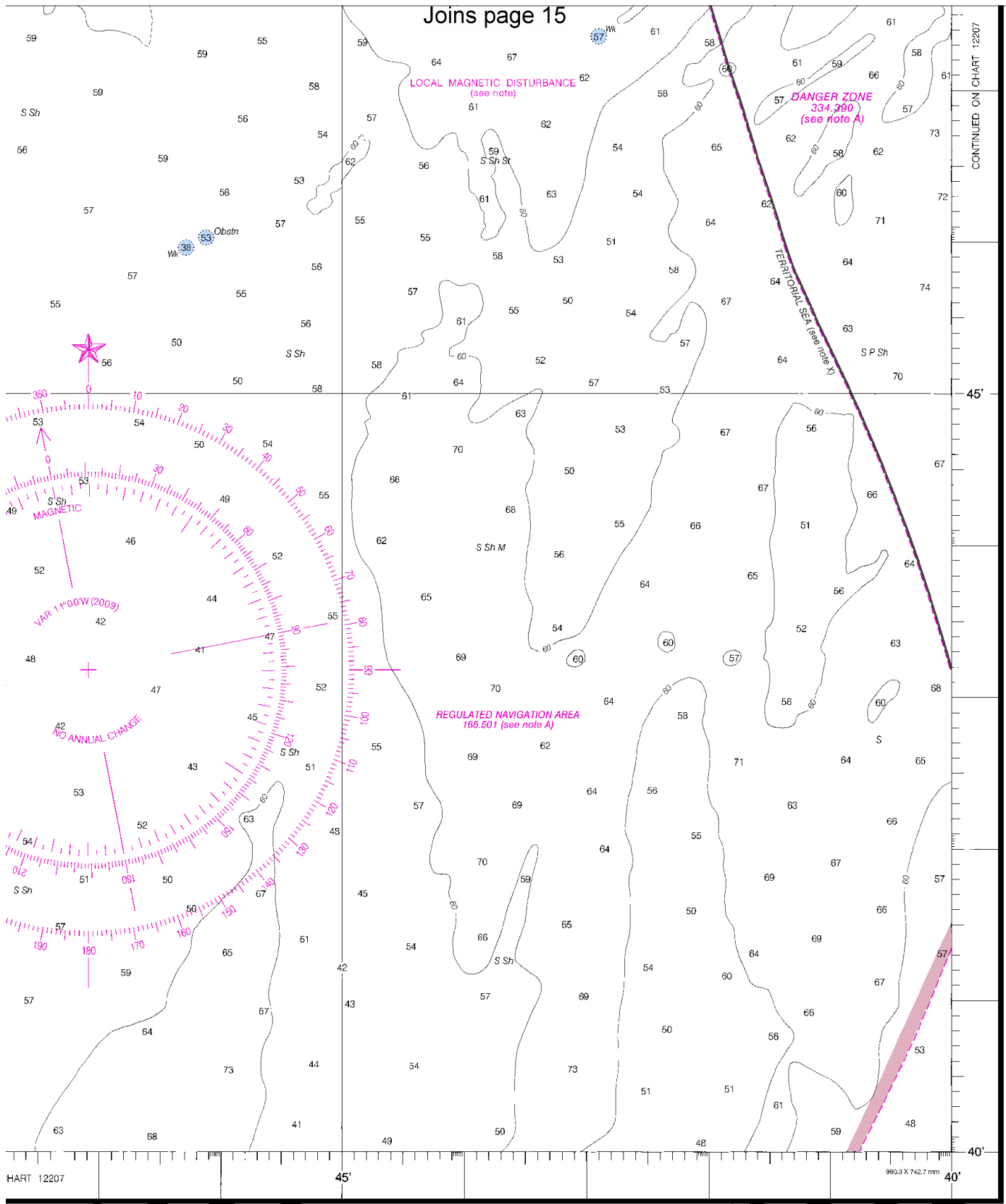
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SCALE 1:50,000

See Note on page 5.



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CONTINUED ON CHART 12207



ED. NO. 14



NSN 7642014010302
NGA REFERENCE NO. 12AH-12208

Approaches to Chesapeake Bay
SOUNDINGS IN FEET - SCALE 1:50,000

12208

EMERGENCY INFORMATION

VHF Marine Radio channels for use on the waterways:

Channel 6 – Inter-ship safety communications.

Channel 9 – Communications between boats and ship-to-coast.

Channel 13 – Navigation purposes at bridges, locks, and harbors.

Channel 16 – Emergency, distress and safety calls to Coast Guard and others, and to initiate calls to other vessels. Contact the other vessel, agree to another channel, and then switch.

Channel 22A – Calls between the Coast Guard and the public. Severe weather warnings, hazards to navigation and safety warnings are broadcast here.

Channels 68, 69, 71, 72 & 78A – Recreational boat channels.

Distress Call Procedures

1. Make sure radio is on.
2. Select Channel 16.
3. Press/Hold the transmit button.
4. Clearly say: "MAYDAY, MAYDAY, MAYDAY."
5. Also give: Vessel Name and/or Description; Position and/or Location; Nature of Emergency; Number of People on Board.
6. Release transmit button.
7. Wait for 10 seconds – If no response Repeat MAYDAY Call.

HAVE ALL PERSONS PUT ON LIFE JACKETS !!

Mobile Phones – Call 911 for water rescue.

Coast Guard Cape Charles – 757-331-2000

Coast Guard Search & Rescue – 800-418-7314/410-576-2525

Coast Guard Portsmouth– 757-483-8526/8527

Coast Guard Parramore Beach– 757-787-9526/9527

Virginia Marine Police– 800-541-4646

NOAA Weather Radio – 162.400 MHz, 162.425 MHz, 162.450 MHz, 162.475 MHz, 162.500 MHz, 162.525 MHz, 162.550 MHz.

Getting and Giving Help – Signal other boaters using visual distress signals (flares, orange flag, lights, arm signals); whistles; horns; and on your VHF radio. You are required by law to help boaters in trouble. Respond to distress signals, but do not endanger yourself.



NOAA CHARTING PUBLICATIONS

Official NOAA Nautical Charts – NOAA surveys and charts the national and territorial waters of the U.S, including the Great Lakes. We produce over 1,000 traditional nautical charts covering 3.4 million square nautical miles. Carriage of official NOAA charts is mandatory on the commercial ships that carry our commerce. They are used on every Navy and Coast Guard ship, fishing and passenger vessels, and are widely carried by recreational boaters. NOAA charts are available from official chart agents listed at: www.NauticalCharts.NOAA.gov.

Official Print-on-Demand Nautical Charts – These full-scale NOAA charts are updated weekly by NOAA for all Notice to Mariner corrections. They have additional information added in the margin to supplement the chart. Print-on-Demand charts meet all federal chart carriage regulations for charts and updating. Produced under a public/private partnership between NOAA and OceanGrafix, LLC, suppliers of these premium charts are listed at www.OceanGrafix.com.

Official Electronic Navigational Charts (NOAA ENC[®]) – ENCs are digital files of each chart's features and their attributes for use in computer-based navigation systems. ENCs comply with standards of the International Hydrographic Organization. ENCs and their updates are available for free from NOAA at www.NauticalCharts.NOAA.gov.

Official Raster Navigational Charts (NOAA RNC[™]) – RNCs are geo-referenced digital pictures of NOAA's charts that are suitable for use in computer-based navigation systems. RNCs comply with standards of the International Hydrographic Organization. RNCs and their updates are available for free from NOAA at www.NauticalCharts.NOAA.gov.

Official BookletCharts[™] – BookletCharts[™] are reduced scale NOAA charts organized in page-sized pieces. The "Home Edition" can be downloaded from NOAA for free and printed. The Internet address is www.NauticalCharts.gov/bookletcharts.

Official PocketCharts[™] – PocketCharts[™] are for beginning recreational boaters to use for planning and locating, but not for real navigation. Measuring a convenient 13" by 19", they have a 1/3 scale chart on one side, and safety, boating, and educational information on the reverse. They can be purchased at retail outlets and on the Internet.

Official U.S. Coast Pilot[®] – The Coast Pilots are 9 text volumes containing information important to navigators such as channel descriptions, port facilities, anchorages, bridge and cable clearances, currents, prominent features, weather, dangers, and Federal Regulations. They supplement the charts and are available from NOAA chart agents or may be downloaded for free at www.NauticalCharts.NOAA.gov.

Official On-Line Chart Viewer – All NOAA nautical charts are viewable here on-line using any Internet browser. Each chart is up-to-date with the most recent Notices to Mariners. Use these on-line charts as a ready reference or planning tool. The Internet address is www.NauticalCharts.gov/viewer.

Official Nautical Chart Catalogs – Large format, regional catalogs are available for free from official chart agents. Page size, state catalogs are posted on the Internet and can be printed at home for free. Go to <http://NauticalCharts.NOAA.gov/mcd/ccatalogs.htm>.

Internet Sites: www.NauticalCharts.NOAA.gov, www.NOAA.gov, www.TidesandCurrents.NOAA.gov, www.NOS.NOAA.gov.